

Florida Gulf Coast University  
Bower School of Music

## Music Theory for Transfer Students

When you audition at FGCU, you will also take two music theory exams that will be used to assess your previous theory background and your readiness to enter upper-level courses.

- The **Written Theory Exam** is cumulative and covers materials taught in what is typically called Theory I-IV. The exam is divided into three parts as follows, and might cover topics listed in parentheses:
  - **Music Fundamentals** (scales, key signatures, intervals, triads)
  - **Tonal Analysis** (realizing a figured bass in SATB, Roman numeral analysis, analysis of non-chord tones, counterpoint, formal and phrasal analysis)
  - **Post-Tonal Analysis** (knowledge of important terms and concepts, basic set-theoretic procedures, twelve-tone music)

You must achieve a minimum score of 70% on each part in order to pass the exam. If you fail to score above 70%, an appropriate class will be suggested for remedial work.

- In the **Sight-Singing Exam** you will be asked to sing two contrasting melodies. The melodies may differ in modality (major or minor), meter (simple or compound), and contour (leapy or stepwise).
- You will hear the tonic triad, and may study the melody for a moment before singing it. You may sing the melody on numbers, solfege, or another system you've used.
- You must score 70% or above to pass, and your grade will be based on the following: accuracy in pitch and rhythm, intonation, steady beat, etc. Deductions will be taken for excessive stopping and starting, loss of tonic, inability to sing inflected pitches (i.e., lowered scale degrees 3 and 6 in minor), and lack of steady rhythm.

If you have questions about either exam, please contact:

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